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REMARKS

The Office Action dated 7 May 2002 has been reviewed and respectfully submitted in response thereto are the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. Claims 21 and 22 have been amended so as to incorporate a feature of claim 22 into claim 21. Claims 7-16 and 21-24 are currently pending in the application, and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner.

Claims 21-23 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,649,687 to Rosas et al. (Rosas). Claims 7-10 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Rosas in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,002,318 to Koch. It is noted that no rejection has been set forth with respect to claim 24. The rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Claim 21 recites a combination of features including "a pin having a first portion at least partially surrounded by the bobbin and adjacent a second portion, a valve seat including an aperture sized to receive the second portion of the pin so as to occlude the aperture, the first portion having a cross-sectional area greater than a cross-sectional area of the second portion, the pin displaceable with respect to the bobbin when an electric current flows through the wire." It is respectfully submitted that these features are supported by the originally filed specification and drawings. For example, with reference to the originally filed specification at page 3, lines 22-23, claim 14, and Figure 5, Applicant's pin 5 includes a first portion, e.g., whose displacement is guided by lower bearing 20, and an adjacent second portion, e.g., coupled to the first portion by a shoulder against which seal 16 is positioned. The relative sizes of the second portion and the aperture in the seat 13 are such that, when the second portion is received in the aperture, the second portion occludes the aperture. And the first portion has a cross-sectional area that is relatively greater than the cross-sectional area of the second portion. It is respectfully submitted that the invention as a whole, as recited in independent claim 21, is not taught by Rosas.

In contrast to the claimed features, Rosas describes at column 3, lines 45-57, an armature 60 having a cylindrical body 62 and a concentric nib 64. The nib 64 carries a valve head 16, which is held in place on the nib 64 by a circular rib of the valve head 16 engaging a circular groove in the nib 64. According to Rosas, "[t]he diameter of the nib 64 is substantially less than [sic] the inner diameter of the annular valve seat 22 so that the annular valve seat 22 is engaged

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by a flexible portion of the valve head 16" (column 3, lines 51-54). As such, the arrangement of Rosas "provides a good seal when the valve head 16 is closed because the valve head 16 flexes and adjusts for any misalignments or irregularities in the valve seat 22" (column 3, lines 54-57).

Thus, in contrast to Applicant's invention, Rosas does not teach, for example, that the relative sizes of the nib 64 and the aperture in the annular valve seat 22 are such that, when the nib 64 is received in the aperture, the nib 64 occludes the aperture. In fact, it appears that Rosas's nib 64 is never received in the aperture in the annular valve seat 22, much less occludes the aperture in the annular valve seat 22.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Rosas does not teach the claimed invention as a whole, and it is respectfully requested that independent claim 21 be allowed.

With regard to the assertions in the Office Action that it would be "inherent" that the cap 14 of Rosas be snapped to an intake manifold or that Rosas cap 14 can be fitted in any orientation, it is noted that neither feature is taught, *per se*, by Rosas. As pointed out in MPEP § 2131, a claim is anticipated by a prior art reference only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 2 USPQ2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, the recitation that Applicant's cap is snapped to an intake manifold, *per se*, occurred in claim 5, which was originally filed but is no longer pending in the present application.

The Office Action applies Koch only against claims 7-10 and 14-16, which depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 21. The Office Action apparently relies on Koch to suggest a pin calibration feature that the Office Action acknowledges is absent from Rosas. However, it is noted that Koch also fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Rosas with respect to claim 21.

As discussed above, claims 7-16 and 22-24 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 21, and are also respectfully submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 21 and for the additionally recited features that further distinguish over the applied prior art. Thus, allowance of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added and that the application is in condition for allowance.

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Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made by this amendment. The attached pages are captioned Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicants have amended claims 21 and 22 as follows:

21. (Twice amended) A purge solenoid valve assembly having a valve driven by a solenoid, the assembly comprising:
a bobbin;
a wire wound around the bobbin;
at least one terminal electrically connected to the wire; and
an overmolded cap generally encapsulating the bobbin and the wire, the overmolded cap including a connector body formation partially encapsulating the at least one terminal; and
a pin having a first portion at least partially surrounded by the bobbin and adjacent a second portion, a valve seat including [adapted to occlude] an aperture [of a valve seat] sized to receive the second portion of the pin so as to occlude the aperture, the first portion having a cross-sectional area greater than a cross-sectional area of the second portion, the pin displaceable with respect to the bobbin when an electric current flows through the wire.

22. (Twice amended) The assembly according to claim 21, wherein the valve seat is disposed at an outlet of the assembly [, and the aperture is sized to receive the second portion of the pin so as to occlude the aperture through the valve seat].